

NAKABAYASHI, J.
Serial No. 10/031,200
Response to Office Action dated June 19, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Figures 13-18 have been designated with the legend "Prior Art". No new matter is added.

Attachments: Replacement Drawing Sheets

Annotated Drawing Sheets Showing Changes

Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject patent application are respectfully requested.

As requested, Figures 13-18 have been designated with the legend "Prior Art".

Amendments have been made to correct typographical errors in certain claims. These amendments are not made for reasons relating to patentability.

The claims are rejected based on various proposed combinations of documents including Takeo (JP 11-215182). Takeo was published on August 6, 1999, which is after the filing date of the Japanese application to which the subject patent application claims priority. A certified English-language translation of this priority application is submitted herewith. Applicant respectfully requests that the subject patent application be accorded the benefit of the filing date of this priority application and that the rejections of the pending claims be withdrawn.

The filing of the certified English-language translation of the priority document does not constitute (and should not be construed to constitute) any admission whatsoever as to the propriety of the rejections or the characterizations of the documents in the office action.

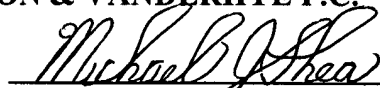
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The pending claims are believed to be allowable and favorable office action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael J. Shea", is written over a horizontal line.

Michael J. Shea
Reg. No. 34,725

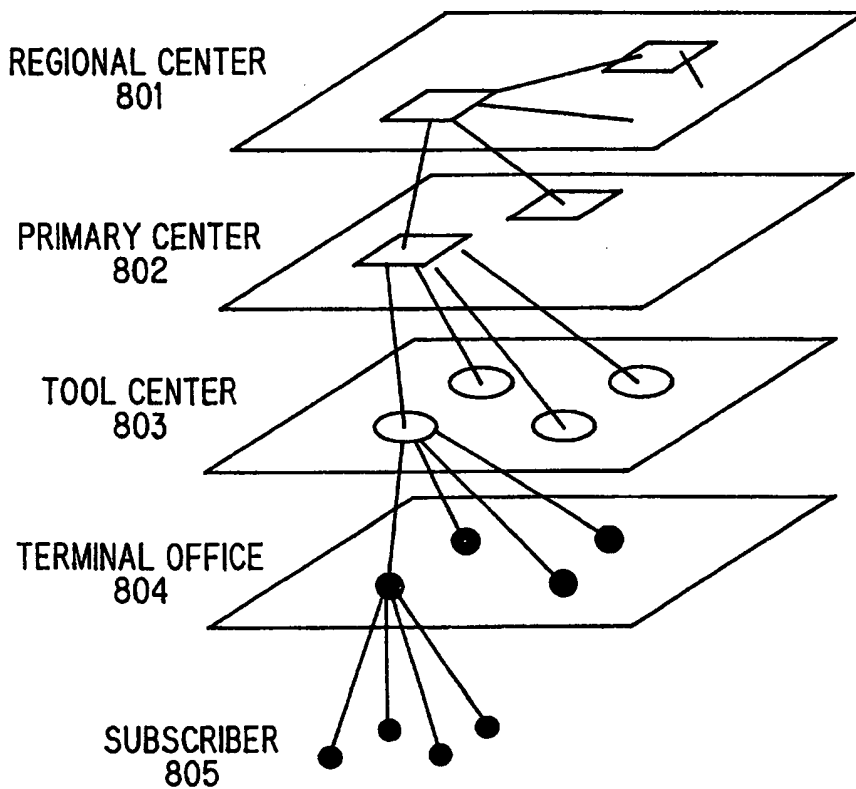
MJS:mjs

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FIG. 13 PRIOR ART



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FIG. 14 PRIOR ART

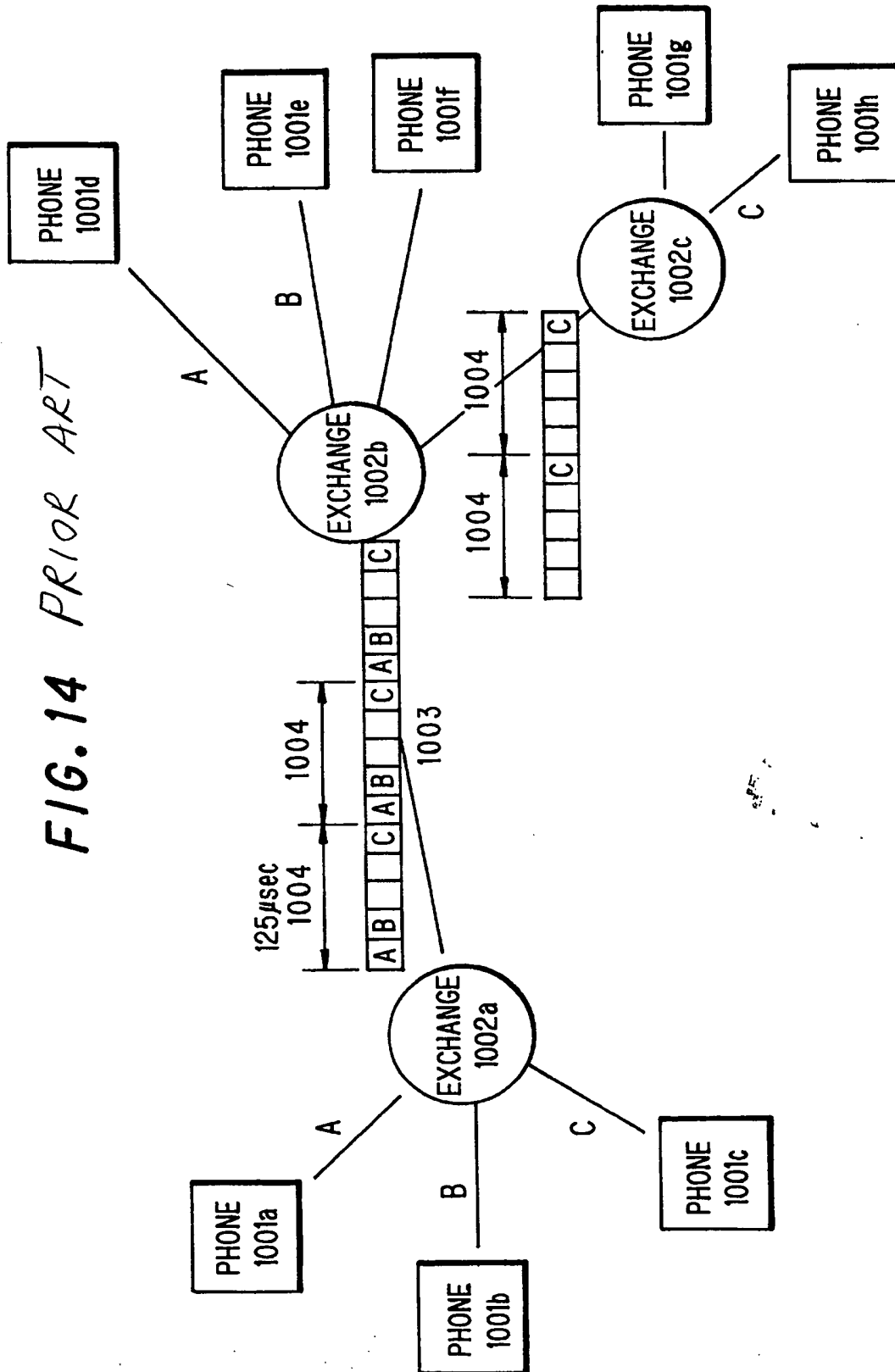
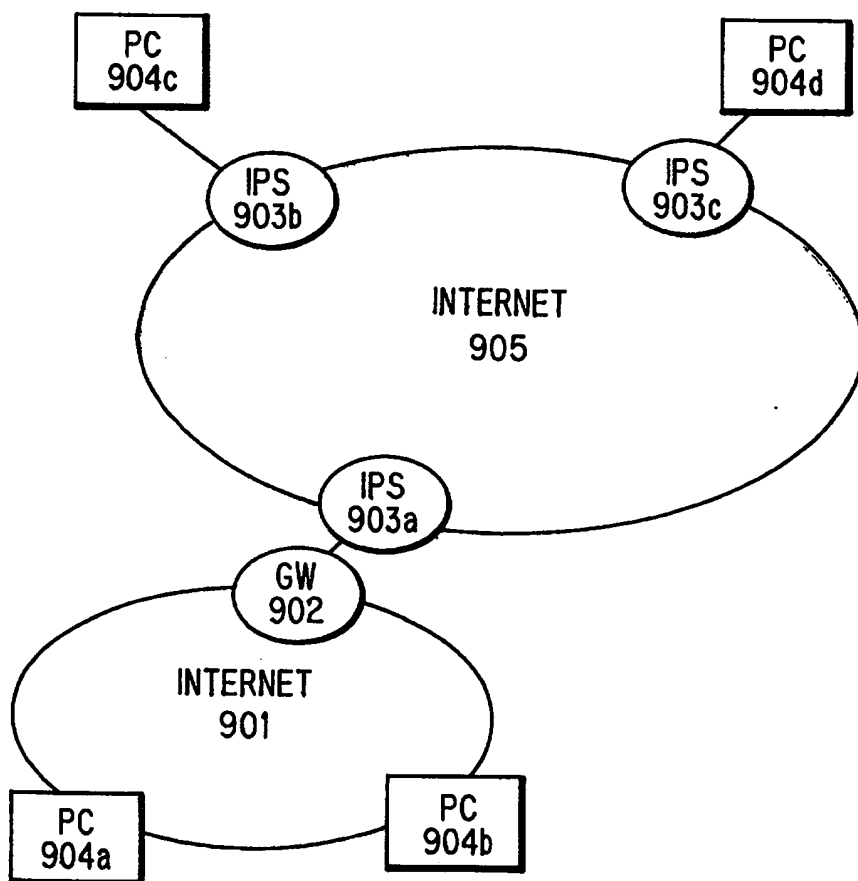




FIG. 15 PRIOR ART

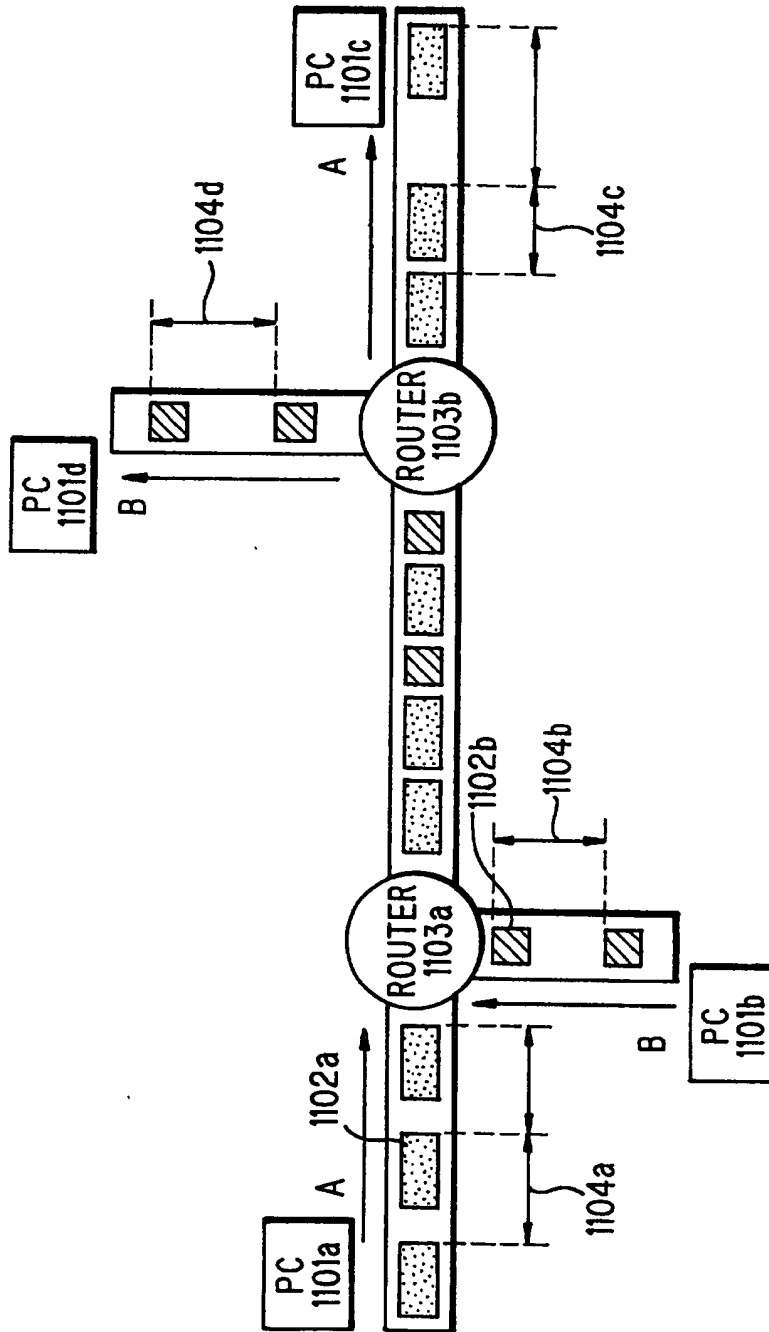


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FIG. 16 PRIOR ART



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FIG. 17 PRIOR ART

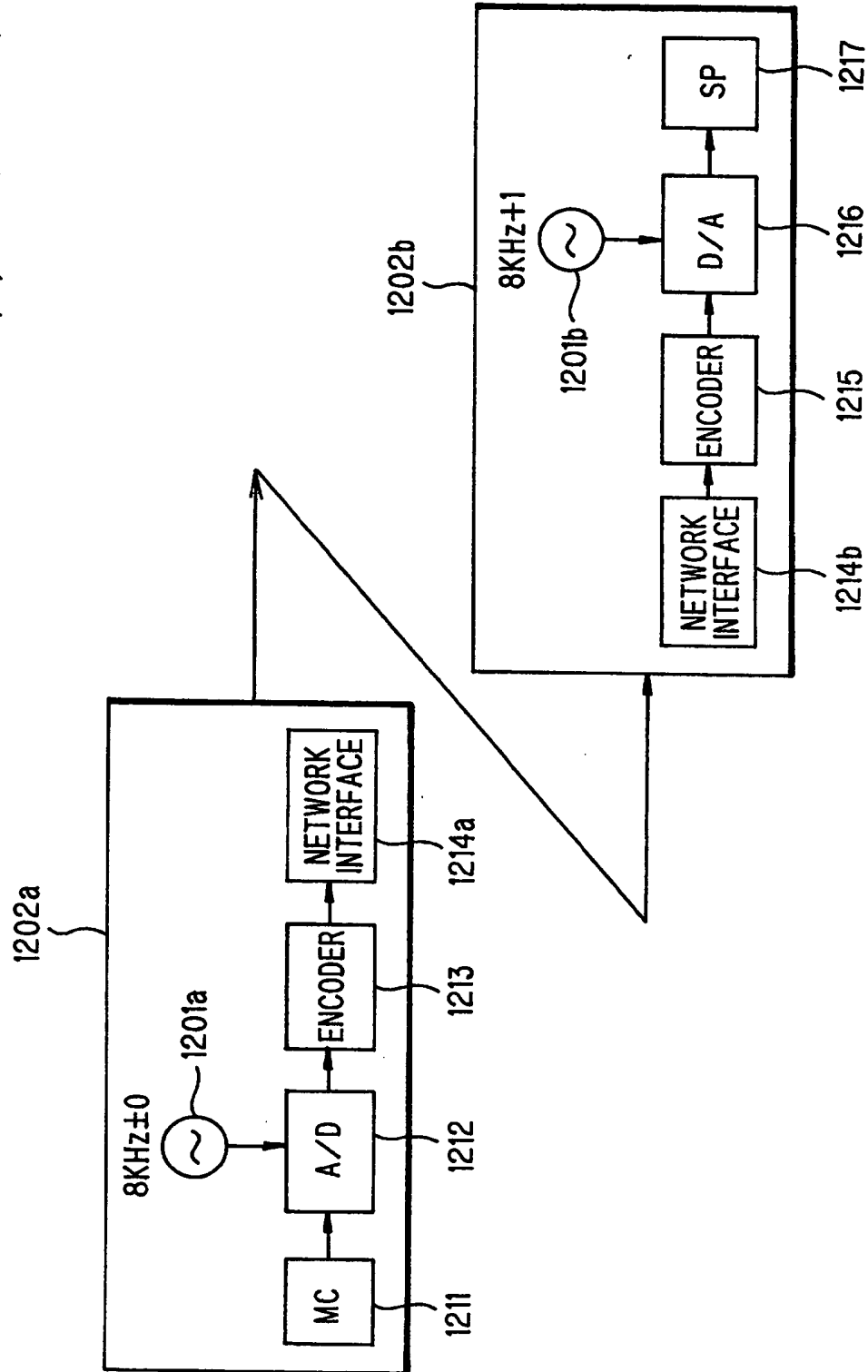




FIG. 18 PRIOR ART

